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# WITH THE CORN BORER

Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

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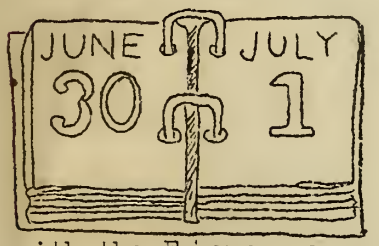



## A YEAR FIGHTING THE BORER

The second round in the Federal Government's battle with the European corn borer virtually ended June 30 with the close of the Government fiscal year, 1927-1928. Although $10,000,000 appropriated by Congress was intended primarily for the first round of the battle in 1927, enough was left to stage a second round this spring.

The first round, in 1927, took place in an arena that included all or parts of 4 New York counties, 4 in Pennsylvania, 28 in Ohio, 15 in Michigan, and 6 in Indiana. The second round, that just completed, included the same area in New York and Pennsylvania, only 1 county in Ohio, and all of 8 and parts of 3 Michigan counties, and no Indiana counties.

Decision as to results of the battle this year can not be announced until fall. By then Federal scouts will have tracked the borer to its lair throughout the area and will have determined how many borers the cornfields have this year, as compared with past years.

This year, as last, the Federal forces worked in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture, and under State regulations. Clean-up of cornland to prevent spread of the borer was compulsory in the area named above, but farmers received no compensation for extra labor, as they did last year. Last year 185,000 farmers in the five States received, for extra labor in cleaning up cornland and farmyards, a total of $4,250,000 from the Federal Treasury.

Address communications to Information Division, Corn-Borer Control, Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

95 % Farmers Clean up Own Farms

Despite the handicap of no compensation for farmers this year, E. G. Brewer, administrative officer in charge of field operations, said today that the clean-up had been satisfactory. More than 95 per cent of the farmers, he said, had cooperated with State and Federal forces by cleaning up corn debris voluntarily.

As the Government machinery came out of the fields last week, reports showed that Government forces had cleaned up 1,295 of the 47,629 farms in the five States. This happened where farmers themselves were unable to clean up, where they refused to clean up, or where absentee landowners requested Government aid.

LACK OF COMPENSATION
MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE
IN CLEAN-UP

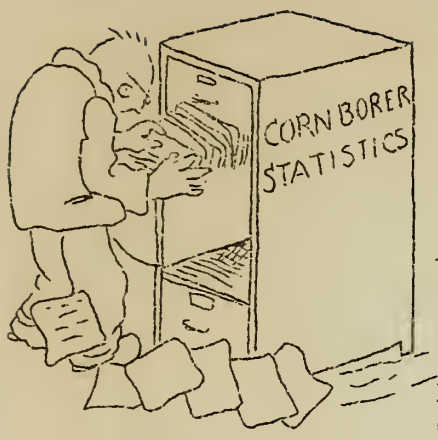
Almost the same number of farms,--1,232 -- was cleaned up by Government forces last year in the same area. For both years in the area under compulsory clean-up this year, the Government was forced to clean up less than 3 per cent of all the farms in the area. Lack of compensation for farmers apparently made little difference in the heavily infested area where farmers are familiar with the borer.

In the one Ohio county under compulsory clean-up this year, Lucas County, 125 of the 2,409 farms in the county were not cleaned up by the farmers. Not growers of sweet corn, they saw no need to protect their crops and the chance for free access to the Detroit sweet-corn market. Had Lucas County as a whole not cleaned up, there was a possibility that Michigan would bar Lucas County sweet corn --- a crop worth a quarter of a million --- from the Detroit market.

Of the 23,431 Michigan farms in the area this year, 800 were cleaned up by Government crews. Last year the Government cleaned up 625. Injunctions obtained by farmers this year prevented the Government from cleaning up some Michigan farms. Outcome of these injunctions is still undecided.

In New York 200 farms were cleaned up by State and Federal forces this year as compared with 151 last year; in Pennsylvania 150 this year, 356 last year.

Several days before Government forces went in with plows or burners or hand-picking crews to clean up a field, legal notice to that affect was served on the owner. Cost of this clean-up is put on the tax bills of the farmer, cost ranging usually from a few dollars to somewhat over a hundred dollars a farm, depending on the acreage cleaned up.



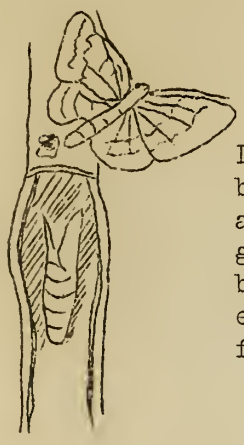

## MORE DATA FOR THE FILES

Where infestation was heaviest last year reports from the field indicate, farmers cleaned up readily, as a measure of self- defense. Before the 1928 spring campaign began, the clean-up area in the five States had this borer population to contend with: Michigan 27.33 borers per 100 stalks; Pennsylvania, 24.24 per 100 stalks; New York, 9.94; Ohio, 5.43 per 100 stalks. The Ohio figure includes the 28 counties in the clean-up last year. Lucas County alone had an infestation of 42 borers per 100 stalks before the clean-up this spring. Wayne County, Mich., had the highest in the whole area, 101.42 borers per 100 stalks. Considerable commercial damage usually follows when the infestation reaches five or more borers per stalk.

## IN THE NEW VOLUME

Federal cooperation with the States in future compulsory clean-up to check the corn borer, according to a recent statement from Secretary Jardine, depends on action by Congress. Unless Congress this winter passes the resolution carrying the $7,000,000 specified in the Purnell Act, which was passed and signed this spring, there will be no Federal funds for such cooperation.

Even if the $7,000,000 does become available by later action of Congress, under the first proviso of the proposed appropriation act, the expenditure of this appropriation is "conditioned upon the enactment by all the States in the proposed control area of such regulatory legislation, the promulgation of such regulations thereunder, and upon such enforcement thereof in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture as in the judgment of the Secretary of Agriculture shall be necessary to prevent or control the spread of the European corn borer." Secretary Jardine has announced that such control of spread will call for a clean-up of a side border of the infested territory. In the event of such action by Congress, the cooperation of the Federal Government with the States in any future compulsory clean-up campaign will depend upon the willingness of the States concerned to issue and enforce such regulations, applying to the lightly infested border area of spread.



## BORER MOTHS NOW FLYING

The borer moths began to emerge in the fields along Lake Erie, last week just as the Government machinery was being withdrawn from the fields preparatory to being housed at Camp Perry, according to D. J. Caffrey, Federal entomologist. A few warm days and nights will bring most of the borer moths out and put them in flight to lay hundreds of eggs on the 1928 corn crop. Where clean-up was thorough, few borers were left to emerge as moths.

## HOW MANY BORERS SURVIVE?

Experiments are now under way to determine just how many borers survive a good clean-up. Between 3,800 and 3,900 fields in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and western New York were taken for the experiment and corn debris examined before the clean-up to determine the borer population before the clean-up. After the clean-up these same fields are now being re-examined, and the information obtained is assembled at the Toledo office.

The averages for each field, township, county, and State will be compiled together with totals and averages for the entire area. In addition the farms are being classified according to method of clean-up so that the final results will indicate the relative merits of the different clean-up methods as applied over a wide area.

In addition to this state-wide survey, special surveys are being made from Monroe, Sandusky, and Silver Creek laboratories covering farms where this information has been taken for a number of years, and comparisons can be made covering the different years.

## FROM CANADA

Comes the word of a clean-up this year more thorough and more satisfactory than ever before. Public sentiment, corn-borer officials here said, was strongly behind enforcement of the clean-up in Canada this year, and its attendant prosecution of violators of the clean-up regulations. This sentiment was buttressed by the fact that many farmers who had q[illegible] corn growing to raise tobacco, this last year found themselves with n[illegible]rket for tobacco. They want to go back into corn growing.

## NOTE THE CHANGE

On July 1, the office of the Eastern Division, Corn Borer Control Unit, formerly located at 716 Commerce Building, Erie, Pa., was moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Bridgeport address is 418-419 Newfield Building, 1138 Main Street.

Indiana Informational Report In Brief

Since last October, the Indiana Informational Service has furnished 456 articles on corn-borer control methods to the newspapers and magazines in the State. This includes local news stories, feature articles, radio releases, prepared dispatches, and short articles for periodical farm papers.

T. R. Johnston, in charge of the work, reports hearty cooperation from practically all editors in the 34 counties covered. In most instances news articles were used in the form furnished, and good editorial support was given.

One feature widely used in the counties was a series of articles covering the entire corn-borer situation, including history of invasion, life history of the borer, extent and character of damage, methods of control, and the work being done with parasites.

## A WORD ABOUT THE PARASITES

Large shipments of parasites are now going out to the heavily infested area from the laboratories at Arlington, Mass., and Monroe, Mich., where they are reared. The insects are liberated at strategic points throughout the Great Lakes area and New England. Many thousand of these beneficial insects will be liberated this summer.

Recoveries of parasites liberated in previous years are also being made now, proving that they have become established and busy at their work of preying on borers. To protect the parasites from the clean-up, corn-fodder containing corn borers believed to be parasitized has been stored in large screen conservation cages.

## MACHINERY STORED

The machinery bought by the Federal Government for the campaign has now been moved back to Camp Perry, Ohio, where it will be stored under cover and kept in good condition until it is definitely known what Congress will do in regard to corn-borer control legislation.

## An Announcement

As the emergency appropriation will not be available after July 1, "With the Corn Borer" issued under the campaign organization, will be discontinued.